



BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON
THE HEALTH OF BIDEFORD
VITAL STATISTICS,
SANITARY WORKS, &c.,
FOR THE YEAR
1938

BY
ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer of Health
AND
JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.





BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON
THE HEALTH OF BIDEFORD
VITAL STATISTICS,
SANITARY WORKS, &c.,

FOR THE YEAR

1938

BY

ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer of Health

AND

JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Staff

*Medical Officer of Health,
Medical Officer for Maternity and Child*

Welfare Centre : —

ELLIS PEARSON, F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and Foods : —

JOHN ACKLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Maternity Nurse : —

NURSE M. WILLIAMS,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

County Council Health Visitor : —

Miss R. LEE.

STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

To the Bideford Town Council.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

I am pleased to state the district continues to hold its own as a Health Resort as will be seen from the General Statistics given in the several Tables.

The General Death Rate is the lowest for several years and the Infantile Mortality Rate is low.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ELLIS PEARSON.

May 31st, 1939.

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

General Statistics.

Area (Statute Acres)	3,920
Population (1931) Census	8,778
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population, 1938	9,294
Number of inhabited houses	2,765
Rateable Value	£63,462
Sum represented by a penny rate (approx.)	£247

Social Conditions, including the Chief Industries carried on in the Area, and the extent of unemployment.

The chief industries are Glove Factory, Workshops for the Tailoring of Clothes, Carriage Building, Motor Works and to some extent Agriculture and Shipping Trade. During the "season" women also find employment in Boarding Houses and Restaurants.

Boat building on the banks of the Torridge gives employment to about 25 men. Shipping has increased a little and provides casual labour for about 100 men.

Owing to lack of industries there is a considerable amount of unemployment amongst men.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	{ Legitimate—Males 59, Females 56 Illegitimate—Males 2, Females Nil }	117
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		12.58
Still Births	{ Legitimate—Males 3, Females 5 Illegitimate—Males Nil, Females Nil }	8
Still Births, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		64.0
Deaths—Males 61, Females 50		111
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		11.94
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	{ Puerperal Sepsis Other Puerperal Causes }	Nil Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births (3 deaths)		25.64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		25.64
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		17
„ „ Measles (all ages)		Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

Physical Features.

The Town of Bideford, situated on the Banks of the tidal River Torridge, slopes upwards to a considerable height, the higher part of the Town being over 240 feet above Ordnance Datum Line. The River divides the Town into Western and Eastern portions. The principal business premises and four-fifths of the dwellings are on the Western bank. Bideford is largely residential and has an increased summer population, and on account of its equable climate is becoming increasingly popular as a winter resort. The sub-soil on which the Town is built consists mostly of shale.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

The Sanitary matters of the district are dealt with by a Special Sanitary Committee of the Whole Council, which meets monthly the officials being the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.

Analysis of clinical matter and bacteriological examination of Milk is carried out by the Devon County Council.

Analysis of water is done by the Public Analyst appointed by the Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES—A Motor Ambulance is available for removal of patients to the Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES—There is a St. John Ambulance Brigade equipped with a Motor Ambulance.

Nursing in the Home.

GENERAL—A Queen's Nurse is engaged by the Bideford Nursing Association to which the Council contribute.

Clinic.

A School Clinic is held at the Geneva School and is visited by the School Medical Officer.

Bideford Hospital.

Thanks to the very generous response of everybody, rich and poor alike, Bideford now possesses probably the most up-to-date modern Hospital in the county, and for its size the most efficiently equipped. The Hospital, situated on an excellent site with plenty of room, is centrally heated and provided with electric light. It has a male ward of 12 beds, and three separate wards, for bad, noisy or accident cases, those that are unsuitable for the general ward, or detrimental to the cases there ; the women's ward is similar. The children have a separate ward of 10 beds. There is an Out-patient department, consisting of Waiting Room, Doctor's Consulting Room, Casualty Room for dressing of minor or septic surgical cases and a Dispensary. There is also a very up-to-date Operating Theatre, X-ray Room, Pathological Room, and facilities for Eye Treatment and Refractive work. There is ample accommodation for Nurses and Staff.

The Hospital, with its accommodation of 40 beds, is more than really filled, and is only able to derive from the patients for whom it caters quite a small fee towards this maintenance. The expenses therefore are very heavy, and it is hoped that everybody will help in supporting its Annual Appeal for running expenses. The treatment of all patients in the Hospital is given free by the Medical and Dental Staff.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Welfare Centre continues to attract Mothers and Children. The Centre is open once a week and the total attendance for the year has been :--

Ante-Natal.	Mothers.	Infants.	1 to 5 years.
40	2700	1680	1500

General Provision of Health Service.

The Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital is now available for cases of Infectious Disease. This New Isolation Hospital has been erected on the site of the old Hospital and consists of three blocks of buildings for isolation purposes, viz., one block with twelve beds for Scarlet Fever, another block with twelve beds for Diphtheria, and an Observation Block with six beds. There is also an Administration Block, Garage, Modern Disinfecting Plant, and Caretaker's Lodge. The Hospital is thoroughly equipped throughout, and serves for the isolation of cases of infectious disease in the North Devon area.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Town is derived from two sources, viz., Gammaton and Jennetts. The water from both these supplies is of good quality. The reservoir at Gammaton, which has a capacity of 32,837,000 gallons, supplies the low levels of the town, while the higher portion is supplied from Jennetts. This Jennetts supply is a new scheme which was completed in 1923 and has been a great boon to the town. The capacity of the reservoir at Jennetts is 26,957,000 gallons. The water, after being filtered, is pumped to a high level reservoir which holds 150,000 gallons, and from which the water gravitates into the town.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage system of the Town is in fair condition. Extensions have been made during the past years to take drainage from new building sites, such as Sentry Corner and Station Hill and Barnstaple Old Road. The drainage of several new houses have been connected to the sewer and the system appears to be working satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system is in use in the town, and now with an abundant water supply steps are being taken to have all closets fitted with flushing cisterns and do away with the old fashioned method of carrying water for hand flushing. This will be a great improvement as with the water laid on the closet will be flushed after each time of using, which was not the case when the closet had to be hand flushed.

A few closets of the bucket system remain in the outlying districts but they are fast disappearing and drainage systems which discharge into septic tanks are being installed with satisfactory results.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No such Baths in the Borough.

Legislation in Force.**ADOPTIVE PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS.**

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	15th June, 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :— Parts 2 (except Section 29), Parts 3, 4 and 6. Parts 7 (except Sections 82, 84, 85 and 86). Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Section 94)	April, 1909
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 5	January 26th, 1926
Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, applied to Sheep, Ewes, Wethers, Rams, and Lambs (as regards old area)	1st February, 1934
Ditto (as regards Borough as extended)	1st July, 1935

Byelaws.

With respect to the Markets	16th February, 1882
With respect to the Driving of Cattle	5th March, 1888
With respect to the Obstruction of Foot Pas- sengers	8th August, 1892
For the Navigation of the River Torridge within the Harbour of Bideford	4th July, 1894
With respect to the Lighting of Vehicles	11th November, 1899
With respect to the disturbance of persons assembled in public buildings ; shooting galleries, roundabouts, etc., street music and bad language	25th June, 1900
Prohibiting Spitting in Public Places	31st January, 1911
With respect to the Victoria Park Pleasure Ground	18th January, 1913
With respect to Hackney Carriages	4th August, 1922
With respect to New Streets and Buildings	10th July, 1928
With respect to the Management of the Public Cemetery	18th August, 1930
Regulating the use of Motor Boats within the Harbour	17th August, 1931
With respect to the Public Slaughterhouse	15th March, 1932

Relating to Violent Behaviour on Elementary School Premises	26th February, 1933
With respect to the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs	17th August, 1935
For the Regulation of Advertisements	3rd December, 1936
With respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Public Sanitary Conveniences	1st April, 1937
With respect to :—	
(1) Nuisances contrary to Public Decency	
(2) Deposit of litter to the detriment of Public Amenities	
(3) Wireless, Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc,	
(4) Disorderly Conduct	1st February, 1937

Regulations.

With respect to the supply of water	1893
---	------

Housing.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The standard of houses in the Town vary a good deal in consequence of some parts of the Town being old, and other parts modern. In the main streets the houses are of good type, but leading off these streets are several small streets, courts and drangs, containing rows of old unsound houses. The chief defects in these houses are : (1) Lack of free ventilation ; (2) Insufficient height in rooms ; (3) Old and dilapidated condition of structure ; and (4) Limited accommodation.

These houses cannot at the present time be closed, on account of there being an insufficiency of houses of the type, accommodation and rental suitable for this class of tenant.

The Council's aim in the matter of these houses is not to reconstruct or rebuild, but to demolish and leave open spaces.

There have been no important changes in the population, in fact the total has varied very little during the past five years.

There does not appear to be any special difficulties in the way of providing sites for new houses.

OVERCROWDING.

- (a) When Council houses are to let preference is given to persons who are at present living in overcrowded conditions.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (a) No extraordinary difficulties have been experienced in carrying out the requirements of the Housing Acts.

Where houses can reasonably be made fit for human habitation notices have been served, and in the majority of cases have been complied with.

- (b) Most houses have an adequate internal supply of water from the Town water mains.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Representations have been made to the Town Council of the defects found in many of the houses and these areas will gradually be demolished as new houses are erected.

BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET
IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Byelaws have been sufficient to deal with any cases that have arisen.

BLE DISEASES.

[illegible]

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1938 AND PREVIOUS 5 YEARS.

Years	Estimated population for Year.	Births.		Nett Deaths belong- ing to the District.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
		Number	Rate per 1,000			Number	Rate per 1,000 births.	Number	Rate per 1,000 population.
1933	9,087	108	11.88	135	14.85	4	37.03	135	14.85
1934	8,941	111	12.41	136	15.21	4	51.28	136	15.21
1935	9,561	113	11.81	119	12.44	8	70.79	119	12.44
1936	9,422	105	11.14	128	13.59	4	38.09	128	13.59
1937	9,361	121	12.92	136	14.51	7	57.85	136	14.51
1938	9,294	117	12.58	101	11.94	3	64.00	101	11.94

TABLE 111.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1938

Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents " whether occurring within or without the District.																			
All Ages.	Under 1 year		1 and under 2 years		2 and under 5 years.		5 and under 15 years.		15 and under 25 years.		25 and under 45 years.		45 and under 65 years.		65 Years and upwards.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Influenza	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Tuberculous of respiratory system	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Syphilis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Cancer	6	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Diabetes	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Heart Disease	24	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Pneumonia	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Appendicitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Acute or Chronic Nephritis	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Congenital Causes	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Senility	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Other Violence	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Other Defined Causes	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Totals	61	50	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	9	10	9	43	30

TABLE IV.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	CASES.		Vision not Impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

TABLE V.—TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " 35	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
35 " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil

TABLE VI.
INFANT MORTALITY.

. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Pyloric Stenosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Icterus Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Fourteenth Annual Report, which deals with the work carried out during the year ended December 31st, 1938.

Sanitation.

The tabulated summary shows the work that has been carried out under the Public Health Acts, and the Housing Acts, 1925, 1930, 1935 and 1936.

Number of Houses inspected	186
Number of Notices served under Public Health Acts	25
Number of Preliminary Notices under Housing Acts	17
Number of Notices served under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930, of time and place at which question of making a Demolition Order would be considered	1
Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930	Nil
Number of Houses demolished	2
Number of Closing Orders made of Part of a Building under Housing Act, 1930	Nil
Number of Notices served under Factory and Workshops Act	7

The chief defects that have been dealt with are :—

Houses provided with an adequate supply of water	2
Provision of foodstore and means of ventilation provided in existing stores	6
Windows made to open	9
Roofs repaired and made watertight	12
Eaves, gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	8
Damp walls treated	2
Floors of living and sleeping rooms repaired	14
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	3
External plastering repaired	6
Stairs repaired and put in safe condition	2
Chimney stacks repaired	1
Kitchen stove repaired	3
Scullery sinks fitted	10
New W.Cs. built to provide separate accommodation for each house	2
New W.C.s built to replace small and dilapidated structures ..	2
New W.C. pans fitted	4
Flushing cisterns provided in W.C.s	8
Defective paving in yards repaired	2
New drains laid to old houses	9
Drains cleared	22
Animals kept in such a state as to be a nuisance	2
Accumulations of manure removed	3
Overcrowding abated	2

I have met the Owners or Agents who have been responsible for the execution of any works in connection with repairs to houses, and they have complied with the requirements of any notice served by the Council without any unnecessary delay or undue trouble.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts))	186
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	304
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	78
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	163
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	2
2. Remedy of Defects during the year (without service of Formal Notices):—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	18
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(a)—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	21
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	17
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(c)—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(d)—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of the year	2
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	16
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	14

Overcrowding.

Two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with during the year. One family was moved out of a small house into a Council house of the three bed type, the other case was remedied by two of the elder children of the family obtaining employment and leaving the District.

Two cases still exist but the difficulty arises of providing a house, at an economic rental with sufficient accommodation to suit a large family.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

No houses in the Borough have been reconditioned under this Act during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses, Nil. Other houses, 1
This house was disinfected.

(2) All wall paper was stripped and the premises thoroughly sprayed with insecticide.

The work of disinfestation was carried out by the Council's employees.

Flies.

A plague of flies occurred at the East the Water School. The flies were found to be harbouring under the roof, and gaining access into the school through the slots in the Sash Windows. Some of the roof tiles were removed and the whole of the roof area sprayed with Emulsion.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5

Number of houses disinfected for :—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	77
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Other Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Verminous conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Sixty-three cases were removed for treatment to the Bideford and District Joint Isolation Hospital.

A "Manlove" Steam Disinfector is available at the above Isolation Hospital.

Rainfall.

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall as recorded at Gammaton and Jennetts.

			Gammaton.	Jennetts.
January	.....	.....	4.67	5.61
February	.....	.....	1.07	1.20
March	.....	.....	.25	.23
April	.....	.....	.13	.14
May	.....	.....	2.01	2.14
June	.....	.....	1.73	1.86
July	.....	.....	2.85	2.50
August	.....	.....	6.07	6.05
September	.....	.....	.82	1.15
October	.....	.....	5.77	5.98
November	.....	.....	5.60	6.20
December	.....	.....	3.95	3.77
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			34.92	36.83
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			Inches	Inches

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Town is on the Constant System and is obtained from two sources, viz., Gammaton and Jennetts. Samples of the water are taken periodically and submitted to the Devon County Council Laboratory at Dixsfield, Exeter, for chemical and bacteriological examination. From Gammaton Supply five samples were taken for examination.

The result of the latest sample for the year taken at Gammaton on December 19th, was as follows :—

REPORT.

CHEMICAL. (Results expressed as parts per 100,000). Hardness, as calcium carbonate.

Temporary 6.0. Permanent 6.8. Total	12.8
Chlorides, as chlorine	2.5
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen	Nil
Ammonia, Albuminoid, as nitrogen	0.0072
Nitrates, as nitrogen	0.2
Oxygen absorbed (3 hours at 37°C.)	0.066
Metals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	Absent

REMARKS—Sample clear and free from sediment.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total Organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C.)	1 per c.c.
Total organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20°C.)	4 per c.c.
B. Coli present in , absent in	100 ml.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.	Nil

CONCLUSIONS.

The sample is of a high degree of bacteriological and organic purity.

From Jennetts Supply twelve samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination as follows :—

Raw water	1
Spring below Reservoir	1
After chlorination and filtration	6
From distributing service	4

All the samples taken at the Reservoir after filtration and chlorination were satisfactory. Three of the samples taken from the distributing mains were satisfactory and one was doubtful.

The result of the latest sample for the year taken at the Reservoir on November 30th, was as follows :—

REPORT.

CHEMICAL. (Results expressed as parts per 100,000). Hardness, as calcium carbonate.			
Temporary, 3.0	Permanent, 6.8.	Total	9.8
Chlorides, as chlorine .....	.....	.....	3.6
Ammonia, free and saline, as nitrogen .....	.....	.....	.0018
Ammonia, Albuminoid, as nitrogen .....	.....	.....	.022
Nitrates, as nitrogen .....	.....	.....	0.12
Nitrites, as nitrogen .....	.....	.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hours at 37°C.) .....	.....	.....	0.269
Metals—Lead, copper, Zinc .....	.....	.....	Absent

REMARKS—Sample slightly turbid, the suspended matter consisting mainly of organic debris.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total organisms growing on agar (2 days at 37°C.)	130 per c.c.
Total organisms growing on agar (3 days at 20°C.)	250 per c.c.
B.Coli present in	absent in
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 c.c.	Nil

CONCLUSIONS.

The sample is of a satisfactory degree of purity. The water is still slightly turbid in spite of filtration but the suspended matter is of unimportant nature.

The Watershed Areas for both Reservoirs are frequently inspected to ascertain that no contaminated material is polluting the water.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The refuse of the Town is now collected by a mechanical freighter and a Bedford lorry, and this collection is carried out during the forenoon. In the main streets it is collected daily and in the remaining parts of the town every other day.

The refuse is tipped at a dump at Northam Ridge and a man is constantly employed on the dump to supervise tipping.

Notices have been served requiring owners to replace defective and insanitary receptacles with galvanised iron bins. Many new bins have been provided, but frequently receptacles are used which do not comply with the requirements.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The refuse dump is periodically treated with gas and poisoned baits to destroy rats, but, being an attractive place where these vermin can find shelter and an abundant food supply it is difficult to keep these pests down.

Rat Week was held the 1st week in November but probably in consequence of the heavy rains, very few rats were found at the dump. The methods of destruction were continued when the finer weather set in and many rats were killed but it is impossible to estimate the number destroyed as so many are asphyxiated in their runs.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses.

There is one Public Abattoir and one Private Slaughterhouse in the Borough. The Public Abattoir is sufficiently large to allow for the killing of all animals that are required for the Borough, but improvement could be made in dealing with dressed carcasses. A Cooling Shed is necessary where dressed carcasses could be hung and allowed to set. This would necessitate an overhead rail so that carcasses could be conveyed from the place of slaughter to the Cooling Shed.

This removal of carcasses would also allow for a better approach of animals being brought into the slaughterhouse for immediate slaughter, would obviate any risk of the hanging meat being splashed during the process of the slaughter of other animals and would overcome the difficulty of meat hanging in a very heated atmosphere which is occasioned by the steam arising from the scalding and scrapping of pig carcasses.

This matter is already under consideration by the Council.

The registered private slaughterhouse is badly situated, being in a narrow street and surrounded by houses and the approach is very difficult, consequently nuisances caused by noise and smell are almost certain to occur. Although these private premises are kept in fairly good condition it would be preferable if all killing was done at the Public Abattoir.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

In compliance with Section One of the above Act, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouses in the Borough are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument.

Under Section 3 of the above Act, twenty-two licences are in force in the Borough for slaughtermen to slaughter animals.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

The following table is as suggested by the Ministry of Health.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Numbered killed	516	48	53	1817	1291
Number inspected	508	46	50	1780	1268
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases con- demned	Nil	Nil	1	6	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	22	4	Nil	57	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	4.33	8.69	2	2.82	.55
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	3	Nil	Nil	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.37	6.52	Nil	Nil	2.12

Butchers' Shops.

The twelve butchers' shops in the town are kept in good condition and all comply with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, in that they are provided with moveable glass fronts. The butchers' shops in the Butchers' Row are under a covered Market Place.

Bakehouses.

The six bakehouses in the Borough are kept in good condition but sufficient care is not taken to protect the bread from contamination after leaving the bakery. Baskets of bread are taken through the streets without any proper covering to keep off dust and other impurities. Each loaf should be separately wrapped before delivery to the consumer, or baskets of bread adequately covered.

Milk Supply.

There are forty-five premises registered within the Borough for the purposes of carrying on the Milk and Dairy Trade. Some of these Dairymen have a licence for wholesale and also for retail trade. All Dairies and Cowsheds in the Borough are periodically inspected and the majority are kept in good condition.

There are twenty-nine dairymen registered from the neighbouring Districts for the purpose of wholesale or retail trade in milk in Bideford.

The registered dairymen trading in the Borough are from the following areas.

Bideford Borough	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Bideford Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Northam Urban	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Barnstaple Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Torrington Rural	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
					<hr/> 74 <hr/>

The Registrations are classified as follows :—

Name of Local Authority		Wholesale	Producer Retailers	Retail, only
Bideford Borough	.....	13	14	18
Bideford Rural	.....	2	11	.....
Northam Urban	.....	1	5	.....
Barnstaple Rural	.....	2	3	.....
Torrington Rural	.....	2	3	.....
		20	36	18

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following Table sets out the number of dairymen who are producing Graded Milk under the above Order and are trading in the Borough.

Local Authority.	Grade of Milk.	
	Tuberculin tested	Accredited.
Bideford Borough.....	3	4
Bideford Rural	1	3
Barnstaple Rural	1	.....

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Sixty-nine samples of milk have been submitted to the Devon County Council Laboratory at Dixsfield, Exeter, for bacteriological examination. The milk is classified in Three Grades—(1) Tuberculin Tested ; (2) Accredited ; and (3) Ordinary.

Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk are taken from each licensed farm once a month, samples of Accredited Milk from Accredited Producers once in three months and samples of Ordinary milk are taken occasionally.

The samples of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk are taken on production at the various farms, samples of Ordinary Milk are taken from bulk delivery by wholesale dairymen or from producer retailers in course of delivery.

The Grade of Milk and results of the examination are shown on the following table.

Local Authority Name of	Number of Samples	Tuberculin Tested		Accredited		Ordinary	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Bideford Borough	57	30	2	10	6	3	6
Bideford Rural	7	—	—	4	—	2	1
Northam Urban	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Torrington Rural	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
	69	30	2	14	6	8	9

From the above Table it will be observed that particular attention has been given to the sampling of Graded Milks. The Designated Milks have to comply with a bacteriological standard as prescribed by The Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1936, but for ordinary milk no legal bacteriological standard for cleanliness has been laid down.

Biological Examination of Milk for Tuberculosis.

One sample of milk was examined by the County Bacteriologist for the presence of tubercle bacilli by means of guinea pig inoculation, and the result was negative.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ACKLAND.

